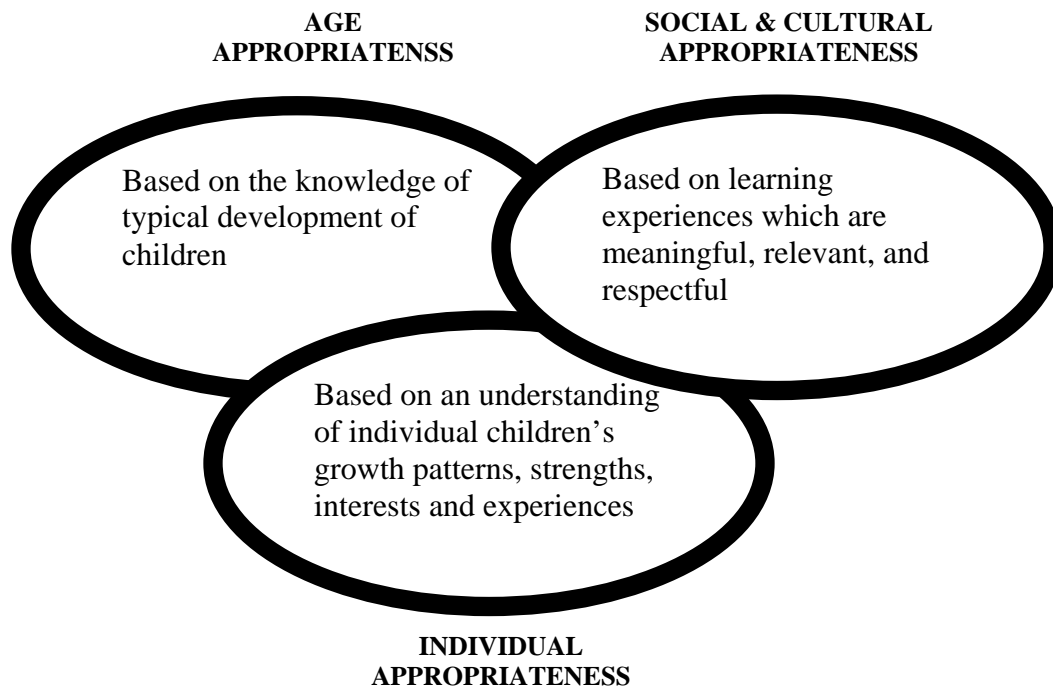


Developmentally Appropriate Practice



Age Appropriateness

Teachers should have knowledge of typical child development for the age span served by the program. This knowledge provides a framework from which teachers prepare the learning environment and plan appropriate experiences.

Individual Appropriateness

Both the curriculum and adult interactions with children should be responsive to individual differences. Each child is a unique person with an individual pattern and timing for growth. Experiences should match the child's developing abilities while challenging their interest and understanding.

Social and Cultural Appropriateness

A child's unique personality is developed as a result of their own personal history and the experiences they have within the cultural group they belong to. Among the rules they learn are how to show respect, how to organize time and personal space, and how to interact with people they know well vs. those they have just met. Therefore, decisions about how to care for and educate young children cannot be made without knowledge of the child's cultural and social context.